

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly

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2009

Faces of the Past: A Calendar



RUTLAND IN RETROSPECT

John Murray, 1720-1794

The name of John Murray heads the list of the grantees of Rutland. The grant by Benning Wentworth, the Royal Governor of New Hampshire, on 7 September 1761, was one of 114 such grants made between 1761 and 1764.

It is believed that Murray named Rutland after Rutland, Massachusetts, where he lived. Murray never resided in Rutland. When the Revolution broke out, he sided with the Tories and relocated to Nova Scotia. An American soldier, during a raid on Murray's home in Massachusetts, put the sword hole in his portrait as he wished to do that to his person.

About the Editor

Jacob Sherman is the reference and technical services librarian at the Rutland Free Library. He also has served as Secretary of the Rutland Historical Society and is chairperson of its Publications Committee.

He has made numerous contributions to the Society's *Quarterlies*: "When the 'Babe' Came to Rutland – October 1919" *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 30 No. 3); "Lost Buildings of Old Rutland: A Calendar", *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 33 No. 4); "Lost Buildings of Old Rutland Revisited: A Calendar", *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 34 No. 4); "Then and Now: A Calendar", *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 35 No. 4); "'People Make a Library' The Rutland Free Library at 120 Years", *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 36 No. 3); "Lost Structures of Old Rutland: A Calendar", *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 36 No. 4); "The Flood of 1927 In Rutland: A Calendar", *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 37 No. 4); and "The Art of Dr. Emelie Perkins: A Calendar", *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly* (Vol. 38 No. 4).

Introduction

At the suggestion of a member of the Rutland Historical Society this year's calendar issue features a series of images and biographies of Rutland personages flowing from the 18th to the early 19th Centuries.

The Society hopes that you will find these an interesting and inspiring reminder of the rich and varied history of the old Town of Rutland.

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Faces of the Past: A Calendar

Compiled by Jacob Sherman

Shapers of Early Rutland

The individuals selected for our 2010 Rutland Historical Society calendar all played a vital role in shaping the physical and spiritual sides of the community we know today – their legacy is all around us. They include people from all stations of life – not just governors and judges and ministers but a blacksmith, tavern-keeper and a farm wife. In most cases they were not born here nor even in Vermont but found their way here in the years following the Revolution when opportunities abounded for industrious and entrepreneurial citizens to leave their imprint. While some lived long into the 19th century, even unto the Civil War years, others passed on even before the War of 1812 had completed its course.

Since most of these individuals lived prior to the age of photography, finding images of them proved a challenge. Fortunately, there are sketches and portraits occasionally painted by well-known portrait painters of the day such as John Singleton Copley. The availability of such images was therefore a key factor in our selection and the people selected were not necessarily the most important in the development of the town. For example, we could not include the founder of Rutland, James Mead, of whom no image existed.

Most of the pictures and information come from two books, *The History of Rutland, Vermont, 1761-1861* and *Early Families of Rutland, Vermont*. An incalculable debt is owed to Dawn Hance who wrote and edited these volumes and to Marvel Swan and Donald Swan who provided much historical and genealogical research. Thanks to them and the Rutland Historical Society the fascinating legacy of early Rutland is preserved for future generations.



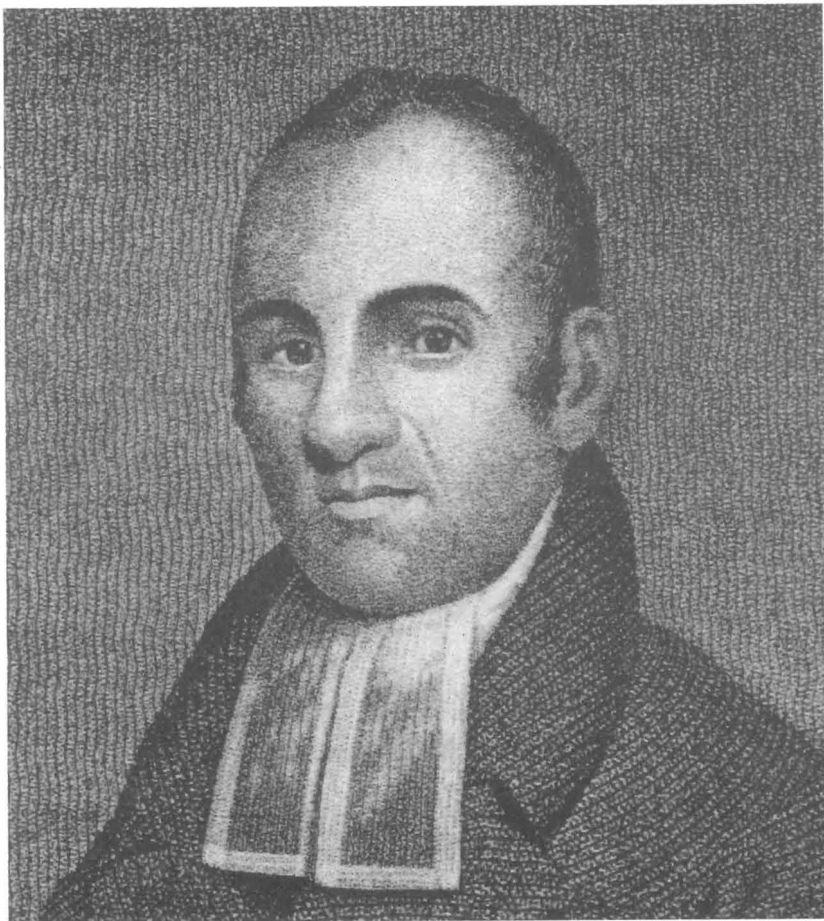
Samuel Beach, 1752-1829

Though born in New Jersey, Samuel Beach had come to Rutland with his family by 1770. During the Revolution he distinguished himself by participating in a number of pivotal battles and events. His pension records state that he was with Ethan Allen at the capture of Fort Ticonderoga in May 1775, was with Montgomery at Quebec, fought in the Battle of Bennington and was present at Burgoyne's surrender.

Like his father Gershom, Samuel was a blacksmith by trade. Surveying was another of his talents and he was appointed Rutland County's first surveyor in 1781. He had a farm on the north side of Main Street near Tenney Brook. He sold it in 1784 and moved with his extensive family to Whiting where in 1820 he had a farm of 37 acres.

JANUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	19	20	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Rev. Lemuel Haynes, 1753-1833

The Rev. Lemuel Haynes was born in West Hartford, Connecticut, the son of a black father and unwed white mother. He was forsaken by his mother and at a very young age bound out as a servant.

From these humble beginnings, he rose to become a minister and in 1788 was called to the pulpit of the West Parish Church in Rutland where he served as pastor for the next 30 years. His home was on the west side of Pleasant Street north of the Meeting House in West Rutland. In the years following 1818 he served in pastorates in Manchester, Vermont, and later in South Granville, New York.

Rev. Haynes was a spirited preacher whose sermons kept his congregations interested. He did not hesitate to venture into the political arena where he was a committed Federalist. He was also known for his sharp wit, of which many examples abound.

FEBRUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day	President's Day		Ash Wednesday		Lincoln's Birthday	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Washington's Birthday					
28						



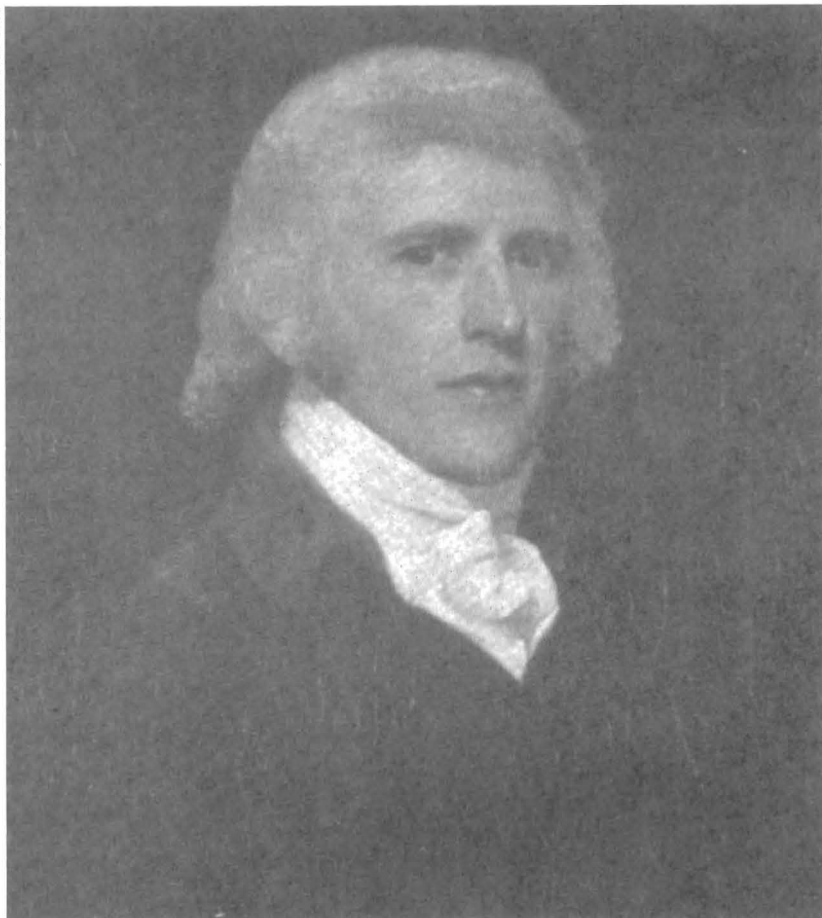
Rev. Dr. Samuel Williams, 1743-1817

Rev. Dr. Samuel Williams may well be the most learned and accomplished man ever to have made his home in Rutland. Born in Waltham, Mass., he graduated from Harvard and for the next 15 years served as pastor of the church in Bradford, Mass. In 1780 he resigned this position in order to accept a professorship at Harvard in mathematics and natural philosophy. He received doctorates from the University of Edinburgh and Yale.

In 1789 Williams became the minister of the East Parish Church in Rutland, serving in that capacity until 1794. In that year he published his monumental *Natural and Civil History of Vermont* in two volumes. In 1794 he also joined with a distant relative, Judge Samuel Williams, in publishing the *Rutland Herald*, which he edited until 1800. He is buried in the North Main Street Cemetery.

MARCH 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Begins	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday	29	30 Passover	31			



John A. Graham, 1764-1841

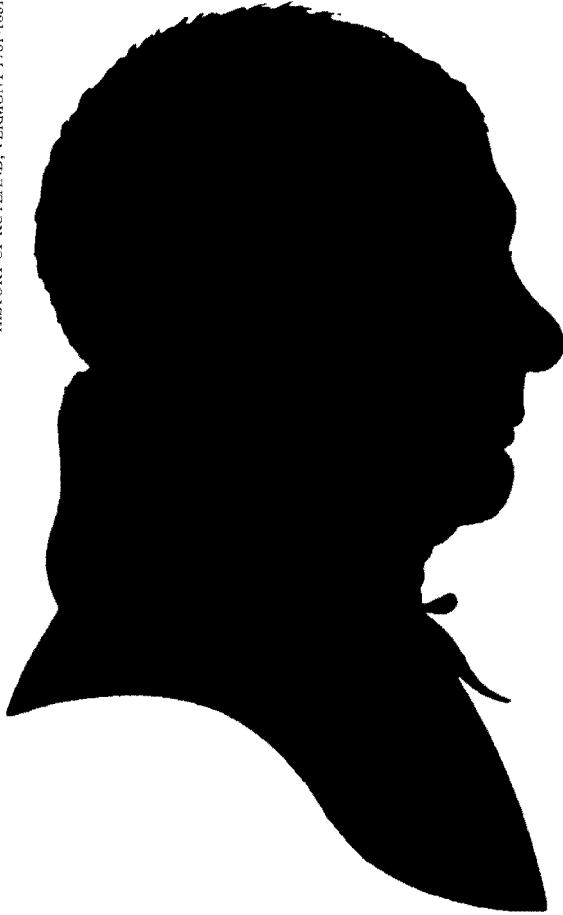
A native of Southbury, Connecticut, he undertook study of the law in 1781 and was admitted to the bar in 1785. He moved to Rutland shortly afterward and became the town's first practicing attorney. Something of a dandy, he is said to have been wearing gloves, a ruffled shirt and bracelets when the following year he faced the anti-court mob.

In 1792-1793 he had a three-story building constructed at 2 South Main Street with the prospect that he might get a Vermont Episcopal bishop located here. The structure served as a store until it burned in 1987.

The Vermont Episcopal Church sent Graham to England in 1794. He revisited that country in 1797 where he published his *A Descriptive Sketch of the Present State of Vermont* in which he skewered Rutland's new courthouse for its "bad taste" and "want of judgment in architecture."

APRIL 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Good Friday	10
11 Easter	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



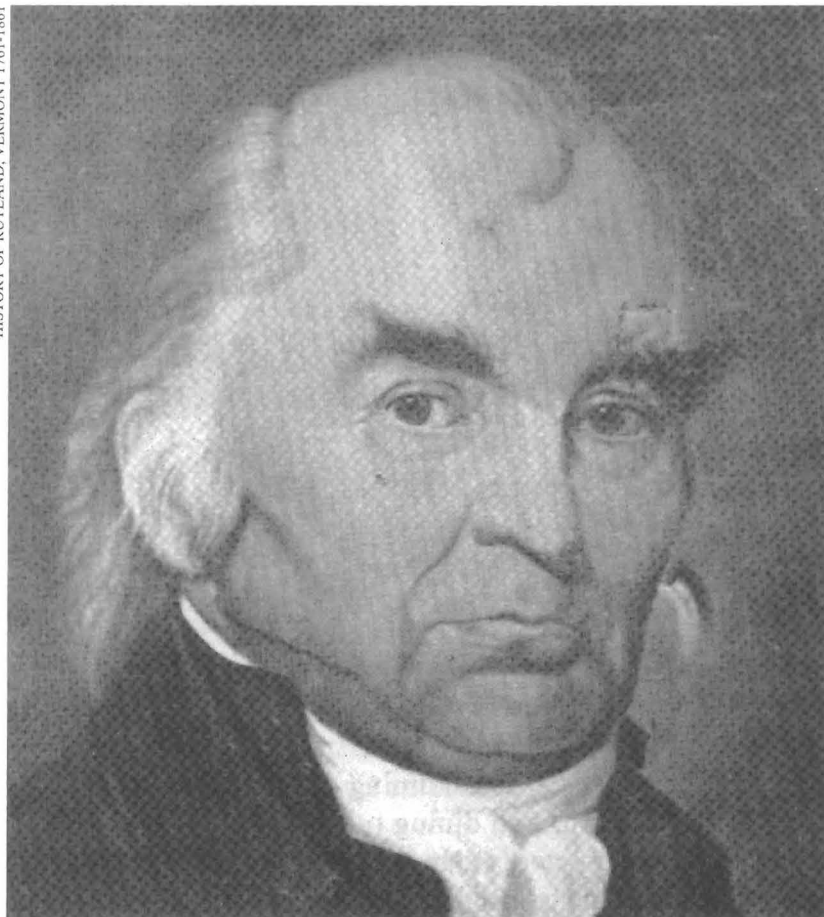
Israel Smith, 1759-1810

Born in Suffield, Connecticut, Israel Smith graduated from Yale in 1781. Coming to Vermont, he opened a law practice in Rupert and was elected that town's representative to the Legislature. Later he was appointed one of three commissioners to settle Vermont's land dispute with New York. He was also a member of the Constitutional Convention that worked out the details for Vermont's admission into the Union in 1791.

Elected soon after as Vermont's first representative to Congress, Smith moved to Rutland in 1792. Some years later Gershom Cheney built a home for him at 44 North Main Street, now the Aldous Funeral Home. Smith was returned to Congress in 1800 and served until 1807 when he was elected governor of Vermont. A disease of the nervous system prevented him from serving out his full term and caused him much misery during his final few years.

MAY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day						Armed Force's Day
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day					



Nathaniel Gove, 1739-1813

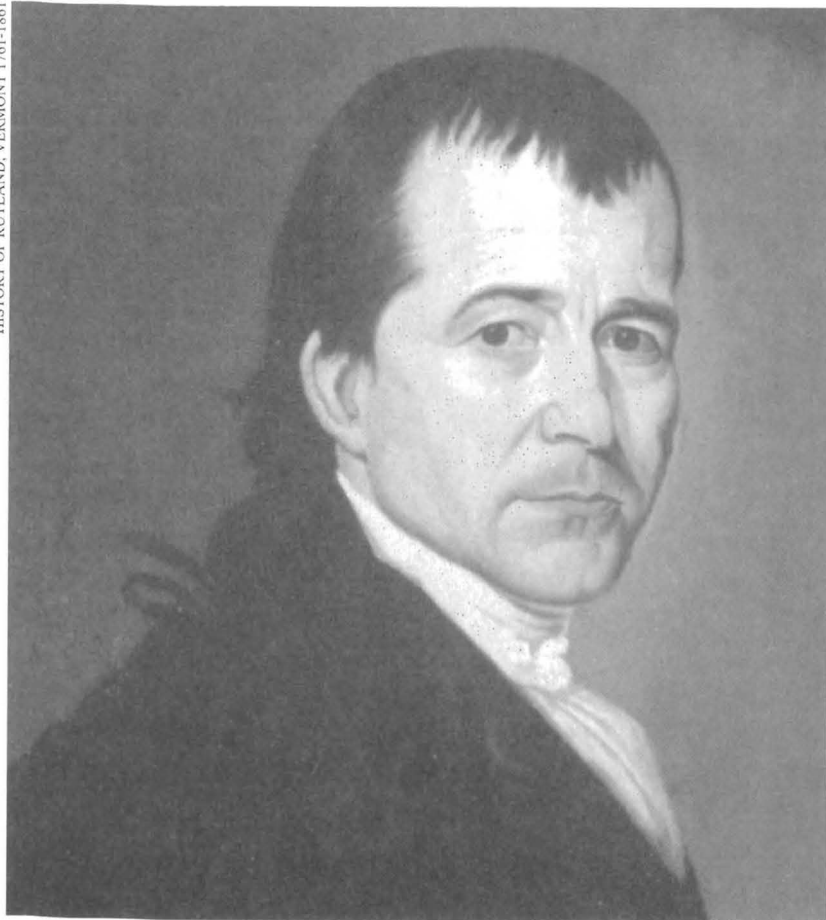
A tavern keeper and father-in-law of Cephas Smith, Jr., Gove was a well-known figure in Rutland at the end of the 18th century.

Gove was serving as a First Lieutenant from Connecticut when he was taken prisoner at the Battle of Long Island in 1776. He subsequently spent twenty-three months on a disease-ridden hospital ship that left him permanently broken in health. The experience affected his speech and he was only able to move his feet a few inches and walk with the aid of two canes.

Nevertheless, he lived for 35 years afterward and, coming to Rutland in 1784, successfully operated a tavern on the east side of South Main Street. In 1792 he agreed to let the county build a new courthouse on land next to his tavern but only on condition that the entrance faced north toward the tavern and that there be a direct walkway between the two.

JUNE 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Flag Day					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Father's Day						
27	28	29	30			



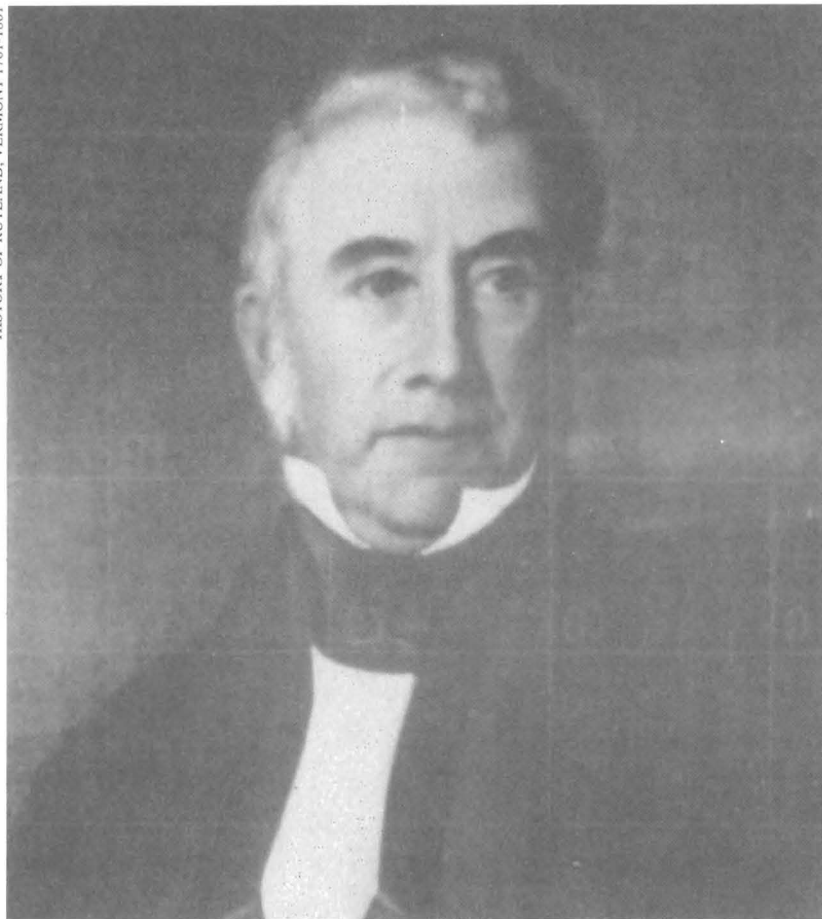
Cephas Smith, Jr., 1760-1815

Cephas was born in Weathersfield, Vermont. Both he and his father served in the Revolution from Vermont, enlisting in 1780. Cephas, Sr. was an early settler of Tinmouth, but moved to Hanover, N.H. in order that his sons could attend Dartmouth College, from which Cephas Jr. graduated in 1788. After that he entered into the study of law with his cousin Israel Smith and was admitted to the bar in 1791.

In 1794 he married 19-year-old Mary Gove and they went on to have six children. He bought the house at 105 Center Street, presently occupied by the Hull Maynard Insurance Agency, and lived there for the rest of his life. In 1801 he was chosen to serve on a committee that drafted by-laws for the Rutland Aqueduct Company. Cephas, Jr. is buried in the North Main Street Cemetery.

JULY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Charles Kilborn Williams, 1782-1853

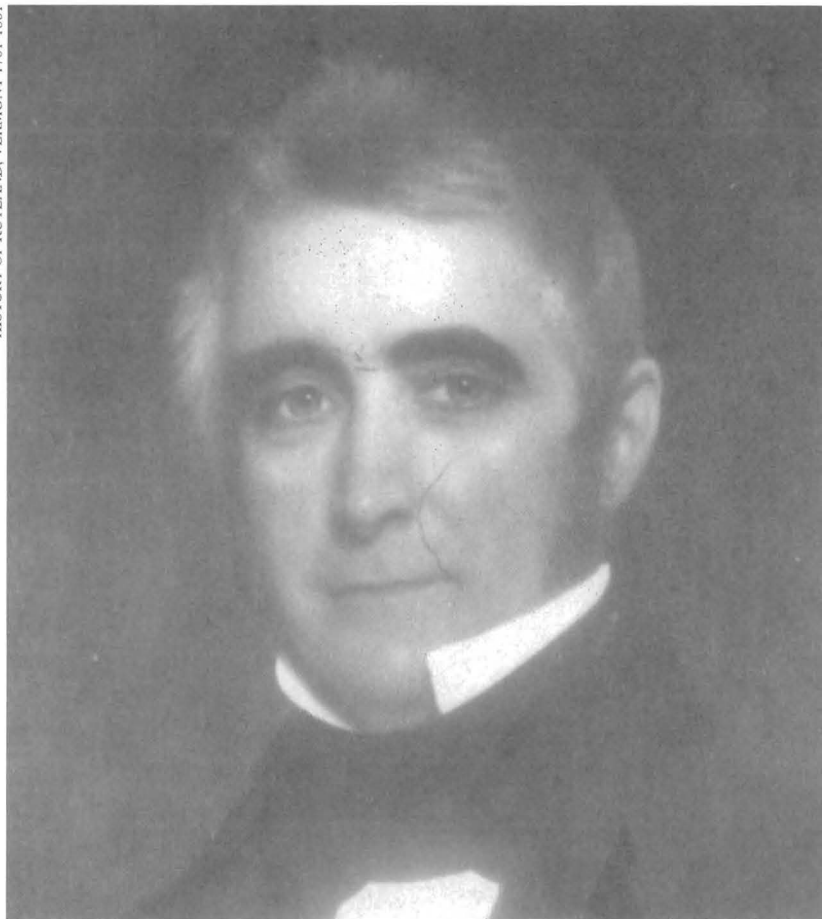
Destined to become a governor of Vermont, Charles was the son of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Williams, first pastor of the East Parish Church and co-founder of the Rutland Herald.

A graduate of Williams College, Charles studied law under Cephas Smith, Jr. and was admitted to the bar in 1803. He represented Rutland in the Legislature during four different terms and served as a judge of the Supreme Court from 1822 to 1824 and again from 1829 to 1833. He then was elected chief justice of the Supreme Court, serving in that position until retiring from the bench in 1846.

In 1850 he was elected governor of Vermont and served one term. Gov. Williams resided at 49 North Main Street in the house presently occupied by the Siliski & Buzzell accounting firm.

AUGUST 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Battle of Bennington Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Moses Strong, 1772-1842

Moses Strong was an attorney, judge, property owner, landlord, civic figure and an extremely influential figure in Rutland life in the early nineteenth century.

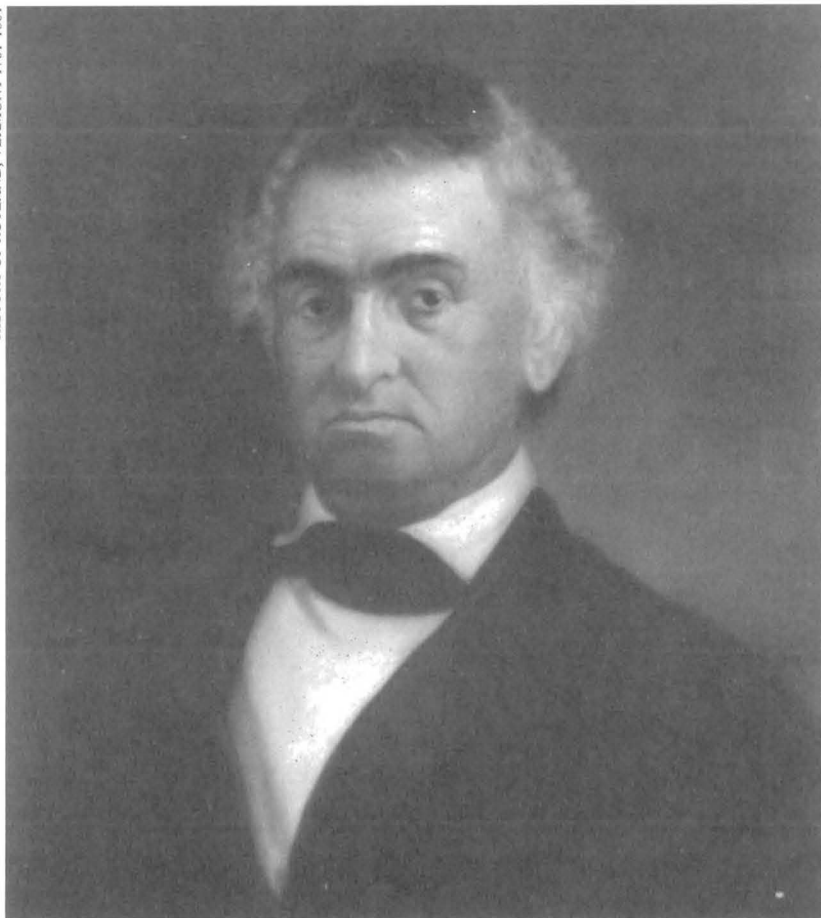
Born in Salisbury, Conn., before the Revolution, he did not come to Rutland until 1810 at which time he purchased the building at 18 South Main Street that presently houses Berkeley, Veller and Greene Real Estate.

Strong was an ardent Democrat and supporter of the War of 1812 while local Federalists opposed it.

Strong was among those chosen as directors of the newly formed Bank of Rutland in March 1825. In that year he also served as chief justice of the County Court. Around 1840 he moved to 61 South Main Street, one of the city's most elegant residences. His property extended westward all the way to the present Strongs Avenue.

SEPTEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9 Rosh Hashanah	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Yom Kippur
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



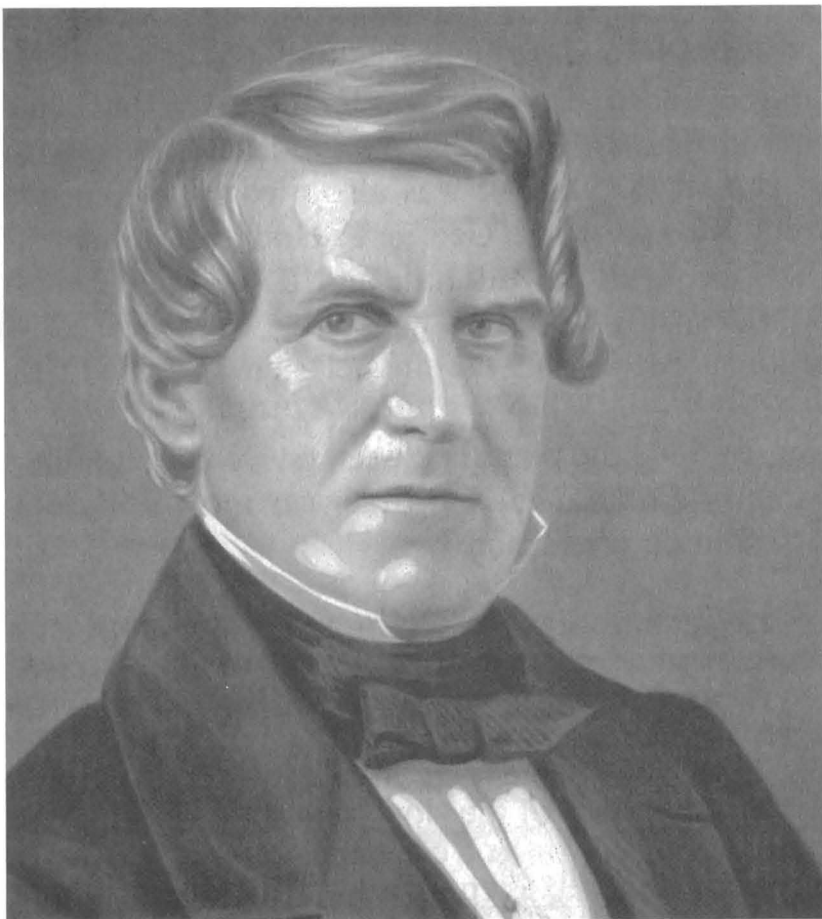
Robert Pierpoint, 1791-1864

Born in Litchfield, Connecticut, Robert Pierpoint was crippled with a rheumatic affliction for much of his childhood. Showing an early predisposition toward the law, he was admitted to the bar in 1812 and soon after his marriage in 1814 he moved to Rutland. He purchased a house at 27 West Street where he lived for the next fifty years until his death.

Pierpoint developed a huge law practice and was the recipient of many honors during his life. He served as Vermont's lieutenant governor in 1848 and 1849. He and his wife Abigail are both buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

OCTOBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween						



George T. Hodges, 1789-1860

A merchant and storeowner, George T. Hodges was instrumental in bringing the railroad to western Vermont. His first venture was the Rutland-Whitehall Railroad chartered in November of 1831. In 1836, Hodges was an incorporator of the Rutland-Whitehall Railroad Bank that had \$250,000 in pledged capital.

In 1843 Hodges took the lead in pursuing a plan for the Rutland-Burlington Railroad that would be part of a line from Boston to Lake Champlain. In 1846 Hodges was elected one of thirteen directors of a proposed Western Vermont Railroad between Rutland and Bennington.

Hodges' store was located on the east side of South Main Street south of the Franklin House. He operated the store from 1810 with various partners for the next fifty years.

NOVEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Daylight Savings Ends	8	9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27
28	29	30				



Dr. Joel Green, 1780-1849

Born in Westminster, Mass., Dr. Joel Green practiced medicine in Brandon until moving to Rutland in 1817. He purchased the home of Dr. Ezekiel Porter that was located on the southeast corner of South Main Street and the road to Mendon. This house later became the rectory of Christ the King Church. The road to Mendon later became known as Green Street and is now Killington Avenue.

Joel was a skilled gardener and it is said his fruits and flowers were among the best in the county. He was awarded an honorary degree by Middlebury College in 1832 and in 1838 moved with his third wife to Castleton. He and his first two wives are buried in West Street Cemetery.

DECEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Hanukkah	3	4
5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Day	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Sarah Purdy Sherwood, 1774-1863

Sarah was the daughter of Solomon Purdy, who had come to Rutland from Dutchess County, New York, and Sarah Mead Roberts, the daughter of James and Mercy Mead. Sarah's mother died just before her third birthday and later that same year (1777) her father along with a great portion of Rutland County inhabitants fled south in the wake of the Battle of Hubbardton.

Sarah married Ethan Allen Sherwood on October 8, 1796 in Rutland. At some point she and her husband relocated to Cornwall where he died in 1813. Sarah died in Cornwall in 1863, her widowhood having spanned the era from the War of 1812 to the Civil War.